(b) whether the partaicipants expressed serious concern about the uncompromising attitude of the Presiding Officers towards genuine demands of the people of this region;

(c) the reasons for the abrupt adjournment of the meeting, without any discussion on the demands put forward by the members of the Committee;

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to consider their demands; and

(e) what steps have been taken to ensure smooth conducting of such meetings, in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) In the meeting of DRUCC/Nagpur of Central Railway held on 11-5-2001, the participants did not allow the regular agenda to be taken up and insisted on taking up items of passenger interest at random. Though this was allowed, the meeting did not progress in an orderly manner. 15 DRUCC members walked out, staged a Dharna and also aired their alleged grievances to the press. The meeting, however, continued and discussed the formal agenda with the members present.

(d) Based on the record of discussions held, action has already been taken/initiated on the points raised by the members.

(e) As per convention, the format for the meeting includes Secretary's address, Chairman's address followed by discussion on agenda items forwarded by the members and other items with the permission of the chair; in that order. This will be advised to the members before the next meeting so as to ensure smooth conduct of the meeting.

Gauge Conversions of rail lines

4395. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the Zone-wise route KMs and the running track KMs of broad gauge and metre gauge rail lines in the country;

(b) whether any proposal to convert the whole of the metre gague lines into broad gauge is under the consideration of Government;

(c) if so, the financial requirements for the complete conversion; and

(d) the details of phased completion of conversion programme.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) A statement is enclosed *(see below)*.

(b) No, sir.

(c) This would be known only when surveys for gauge conversion of all the Metre Gauge lines is done. However, financial requirement of works inlcuded in the budget is about Rs. 10,000 crores beyond 1-4-2001.

(d) The gauge conversion works would be progressed as per availability of resources.

Statement

GAUGE CONVERSION OF RAIL LINES

(a) The Zone-wise route Kilometres and running track kilometres of Broad Gauge and Metre Gauge lines as on 31.3.2000 (latest available) are as under :

Railway Zone	Route Kilometres		Running Track Kilometres	
	Broad Gauge	Metre Gauge	Broad Gauge	Metre Gauge
Central	6149	—	9814	—
Eastern	4110	—	6868	—
Northern	9104	1665	11389	1665
North Eastern	2255	2767	2849	3046
Northeast Frontier	1575	2104	1771	2105
Southern	4574	2570	5838	2656
South Central	5621	1481	7288	1496
South Eastern	6278	—	10236	—
Western	4717	4426	6388	4443

NOTE:—There are no Metre Gauge lines on Central, Eastern and South Eastern Railways.